

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday December 15th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Bill Murphy (HIX TV) said the phone line was down so this meeting would not be recorded for Channel 12 but would be live streamed to Hicksville YouTube.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Barth. The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Steve Eyers and then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following present: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Kent Miller, Eric Bassett, Charlie Martin, Rob Bailey, Ron Beverly and Toni Egly; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Administrator Cory Wann and Solicitor Avery Demland were absent.

Residents interested in filling the empty (January 1st) council seat were on hand to address council. They were Tori Guilford, Bo Gonwick, Tom Luderman, Ed Garman and Brandon Altman. Nominations and voting will be held in January.

Minutes from the December 1st Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions: No meetings were held.

Council Committees: The Finance Committee met December 11th. Minutes were in the packets.

NOTE: All committee meeting minutes are available in their entirety in the Fiscal Officer's office at 111 South Main Street, Hicksville or by email request to hixcs@defnet.com. All council meetings are shown on YouTube, and minutes are on the website.

Administrator's Report: Cory Wann was absent but had a written report in the packets.

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2025-20** by caption only to amend appropriations. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2025-20 by caption only. Kent Miller made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning was absent but had his list of calls and cases in the packets. Police Clerk Jennifer Caryer was present to express her concerns about the budget process. She said they waited until the end of the year to spend any funds left in case they had unexpected expenses during the year. They are a department that has to 'use it or lose it'. At the end of the year purchases were made before the December 1st deadline set by the Fiscal Officer. She said the officers were grateful to have more than 2 pairs of uniform pants. The department was not happy that the items specifically budgeted in 2026 but purchased and paid for with 2025 funds will be removed from the 2026 budget. She also said the 1st seven items on the appropriations are under control of the fiscal officer and she doesn't know why wages were overspent. Eric Bassett said the Finance Committee looks at budgets as submitted but does not micromanage expenses. He is in favor of reducing the 2026 budget by the items purchased and paid for in 2025. He has asked for a list before*

anything is official. Toni Egly said Mark spoke with her at 4 pm and she had to go for the vote at 6 pm. That was not enough time to consider anything.

Fire Chief: Darrick Crochran was absent but let council know uniform fitting is done and the committee is getting costs from several companies for the fire truck.

EMS Chief: Bruce Silcott discussed the grants received and how to spend the funds. Silcott was told he is the chief - it's his call.

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted to Council:

- Fund Status report and Cash Summary by Fund.
- November Utility, Income Tax and Mayor's Court Collections Reports.
- Email from State Fire Marshall: VFDF Annual Certification.
- Ohio Division of Liquor Control - new license for Fat Pig restaurant.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Barth named the 4 employees who have earned longevity bonuses: Police Officer Chris Taylor, 5 years - EMT Hannah Kirkham, 5 years - Fireman Tim Coon, 20 years and Street Dept. Allen Schooley, 20 years.

He announced "Wreaths Across America" came to our cemetery to lay wreaths. Donations are welcomed to cover the cost.

The Defiance County Health Department will be coming to the area twice during the year with a mobile clinic offering various screenings.

At 6:55 Rob Bailey made a motion to go into executive session for personnel discipline, seconded by Eric Bassett. Egly, Miller, Martin, Beverly and Bassett voted yes. Bailey voted no.

Council returned to regular session at 7:15 with no further business.

Ron Beverly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor